25. A urushiol sorbent comprising a smectite type clay having a cation exchange capacity of at least 75 meq./100 grams of clay, intercalated with an organic surface modifier intercalant molecule that contains at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of aldehyde, ketone, carboxylic acid, alcohol, phenol, ether, catechol, lactam, lactone and pyrrolidone, said intercalant being ion-dipole bonded on a platelet surface of the clay.

ADD new claim 26, as follows:

26. The composition of claim 1, wherein the organic surface modifier intercalant molecule contains a carbonyl moiety and an alkyl moiety having at least 6 carbon atoms and is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid, a ketone, an aldehyde, a lactone, a lactam, and a pyrrolidone.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended to correct the spelling of "catechol". Claims 1 and 25 have been further amended for accuracy to define the ion-dipole bonding of the surface modifier molecule as bonded to the inner surface of the clay platelet, as described at page 11, lines 9-12.

Applicant traverses the election requirement as too narrow and offers new claim 26 as a generic claim. New claim 26 is directed to surface modifiers containing a carbonyl group and a alkyl group having at least 6 carbon atoms. As set forth on page 12, lines 4-18, of Applicant's specification, the ion-dipole attraction of the preferred long chain pyrrolidone is attracted to the inner surface of the smectite clay through the carbonyl moiety of the pyrrolidone molecule. The surface modifiers of new claim 26 all contain a carbonyl moiety and are defined to include an alkyl moiety having at least 6 carbon atoms. It is submitted that claim 26 should be the generic claim that is searched.

With traverse, Applicant hereby elects the pyrrolidone surface modifiers. All claims 1-26 read on the pyrrolidone surface modifiers.